

# MEMORIALIZE 4



MEMORIALIZING  
MAY 4, 1970

## *Memorialization*

### **Memorialization**

Memorializing May 4, 1970 at Kent State University, including efforts to build the central May 4 Memorial, has been a protracted, often contested, and controversial process.





# Willful Acts of Denying May 4

## *Commemorations Suspended*

KSU administration ceased sponsoring annual commemoration programs held on May 4, stating that they were no longer needed. The May 4 Task Force, founded in 1975 by Alan Canfora, Dean Kahler, and Robert Stamps, three of the students wounded on May 4, and four other students, assumed responsibility for organizing commemorations of the May 4 tragedy.

1975

## *The Gym Annex*

KSU administration announced in 1974 its intention to build a gym annex on the site of the shootings, making it difficult to retrace the events of May 4. This sparked a protest that ran from May 12, 1977 to July 12, 1977. Known as "Tent City," students, the public, and some parents of students who were slain and wounded on May 4 pitched tents and occupied the site where the University planned to build.



Kent State University Libraries. Special Collections & Archives.



## *Tent City Protests*

Police arrested 193 activists, including the parents of slain student Sandra Scheuer.



Members of the May 4 Task Force, including Alan Canfora, seated on the left, and Chic Canfora, second from left, at a meeting of the KSU Board of Trustees, protesting the building of the Gym Annex on the site of the tragedy. Courtesy of Chic Canfora.



## George Segal Sculpture is Rejected

KSU administration rejected Segal's sculpture, which was funded by a \$100,000 grant from the Mildred Andrews Foundation of Cleveland, on the grounds that its depiction of the biblical character of Abraham about to sacrifice his son Isaac would incite protest and defacement.

# 1978

### Work deemed 'inappropriate'

## Officials reject May 4 sculpture

By ELAINE CONRAD-ROGLER

Sculptor George Segal's design for a memorial to the students killed and wounded at KSU on May 4, 1970, was rejected by KSU officials in late August.

According to a statement from KSU President Brage Golding, the theme of the sculpture was declined because "it was thought inappropriate to commemorate the deaths of four persons and the wounding of nine, with a statue which appears to represent an act

of violence about to be committed."

**THE WORK**, based on the Biblical story of Abraham and his son, Isaac, shows a modern-day, middle-aged male holding a knife as he faces a kneeling youth. The young man's hands are bound in front of him. He appears to be pleading for his life.

Segal has been quoted as saying the work addresses the cause of the violence at KSU, which he believes was a conflict of the generations

and passions on both sides.

Golding said yesterday Segal has not honored his agreements with the university to discuss the nature of the statue before any work was started. A sketch was supposed to be made, followed by a small model to be submitted for approval, Golding said.

**"MY FIRST CONTACT** with Segal occurred when Segal called and told me he had the full plaster sculpture done," Golding said. "Segal violated every agreement we made." If the statue would have been placed here, Golding added, "it would have been defaced; there would have been protest marches. It's not worth it."

"If anyone gives me a gift I reserve the right to decline it," he

said.

University officials said they indicated to Segal they would be interested in "pursuing development of some different theme" with the artist. Segal, however, said his working schedule would not permit a "total redirection of the work," and if the university cannot accept it as proposed, he would "negotiate separately with the Mildred Andrews Fund as to any further development or closure of the project."

**THE MILDRED** Andrews Fund, a Cleveland foundation, had commissioned the \$100,000 sculpture from the internationally known sculptor, subject to approval by KSU officials of the artist's theme.



George Segal's 'Abraham and Isaac: In Memory of May 4, 1970'. Kent State University Libraries. Special Collections & Archives.

## Princeton Dedication

### of Segal's Sculpture

Families of the slain students and some of the wounded attended the Princeton dedication.

# Princeton Weekly Bulletin

## Kent State families attend Segal sculpture dedication

"The circle is now complete," said Mrs. John Russell after the dedication on 6 October of George Segal's sculpture *Abraham and Isaac, In Memory of May 4, 1970 Kent State University*. Nine years have passed since her son Jim was wounded by National Guard gunfire during an anti-war rally at the Ohio school. Four students were killed that day, and nine others, including Russell, were injured in the disturbance that had been touched off four days earlier by the expansion of the Vietnam War into Cambodia.

The parents of three of the students who were killed, and six of the students who were injured were among the 250 people who attended the dedication. "It has been nine years of sadness and frustration, of complicated civil suits and of painful efforts to keep the issue alive politically until the country faced up to the fact that excessive force had been used against the dissenters," said Methodist minister John P. Adams, whose Washington, D.C.-based church had aided the distraught families.

The dedication of *Abraham and Isaac*, commissioned to commemorate the events of 4 May, represented the final arc in that circle of events, Mrs. Russell said. But even the sculpture's placement had been an ordeal. It was originally to stand on the Kent State campus, but the Ohio school rejected the work because of its theme.

The sculpture transcends the specific events at Kent State, Segal says, by linking the subject to the theme of Kierkegaard's philosophic speculations on the Old Testament story of Abraham and Isaac. In that biblical tale, God asks Abraham to sacrifice his only son as proof of his faith. But just as Abraham raises the sacrificial knife, God tells him to spare the child. In Segal's version, a man



George Segal intended his *Abraham and Isaac* "to help heal a psychic scar that was still deep" nine years after the Kent State tragedy.

dressed in work clothes stands holding a knife before a kneeling youth, whose hands are bound with rope.

"An act of violence about to be committed is inappropriate to commemorate an act of violence," Robert McCoy, executive assistant to the president of Kent State, said in an *Art News* story last November. *Abraham and Isaac* was then offered to Princeton by the Mildred Andrews Fund and the John P. Putnam Foundation.

Segal explained that he wanted to remove this tragic event from the realm of "pure politics" and deal with its meaning on moral and ethical terms—"to put moral and ethical brakes on the

passion surrounding it." The story of Abraham and Isaac offers a powerful image that includes both violence and compassion, he said. "The Kent State shootings were about violence. I wanted to introduce a consideration of compassion into the situation."

He pointed out that the Old Testament story has a happy ending: Isaac is not killed. "There are reasons for that upon which we should reflect."

"I offered the sculpture to Kent State as a means to help heal a psychic scar that was still deep and that has not yet been healed," Segal said.

At Saturday's dedication ceremonies, (Continued on page 3)

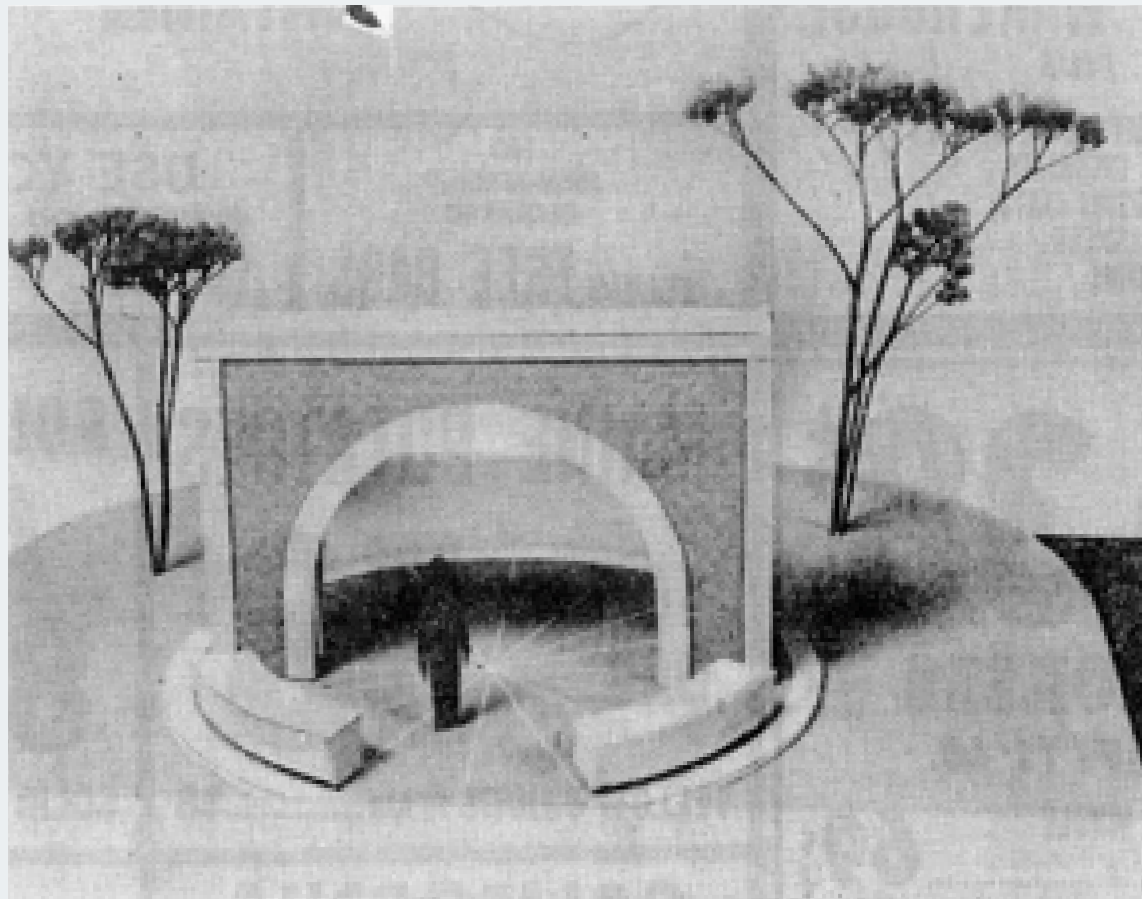


Memorial Arch Project, Designed  
Byhouse, Is Successfully Overturned

Memorial Arch Project, Designed  
In-house, Is Successfully Overturned

Campus activists convinced KSU  
administration to scrap plans for a memorial  
arch, pointing out that the arch has long  
symbolized battlefield victory.

1980



Akron Beacon Journal, March 10, 1980

Memorial arch symbolizes  
state's power over people

Editor, Stater,

I am writing in regard to the controversial May 4 marker. Having been one of the four undergraduate students on the May 4 Observance Committee, a presidential commission formed to deal with May 4 issues including the marker, I was surprised to read in the *Daily Kent Stater* that President Golding stated some individuals may criticize him for lack of student input into the matter, but he added there were student representatives on the committee. I have not spoken to Golding on the matter, about the marker issue, so I will assume that he was misquoted.

ALTHOUGH there was student representation on the committee, for Golding to suggest that the student representatives discussed, let alone approved of the arch is void of any truth. I will attempt to set the story straight.

The Basi committee, which included students, faculty, administration, and townspeople was formed to make appropriate proposals to the president on ways to commemorate May 4. Two of the proposals dealt with placing a marker near the shooting site and closing the Prentice Hall parking lot to vehicles.

THE FOLLOWING two years, Golding formed the May 4 Observance Committee. Its function was twofold: to coordinate May 4 memorial programs and to review

the Basi committee report. In addition, we could make any further proposals we felt appropriate.

Keeping with the spirit of the Basi committee, to attempt to preserve the May 4 site as close as possible to how it was in 1970, I proposed to recommend to the president to reverse the decision to close the parking lot, reasoning that it was a parking lot on May 4, 1970, so it should remain that way today.

INSTEAD WE recommended that the spots where the four students were killed be permanently cordoned off. In addition, the nine areas where the wounded students fell would have less pronounced markers, near to the ground. The third proposal dealing with the site was to place a sign at the entrance to the parking lot. The sign would simply read "This is the site of the May 4, 1970 shootings." Descriptive brochures and maps of the area would be located near the sign. Golding approved all of these recommendations. None of the proposals have been implemented to date. Instead, a Roman arch will

be built. This certainly was not the intent of the committee.

AN ARCH historically has been a symbol of the state. Magnificent arches were usually built after warriors were victorious in battle.

Is the university suggesting by building this arch that a battle took place here? Who was the enemy? Was it Bill Schroeder, the ROTC cadet, or Sandy Scheur, a coed on her way to a class?

President Golding has told me on more than one occasion that we must put the May 4 issue behind us because we all know what happened that day, and the University has learned the lessons of May 4. It would appear that if the arch symbolizes what he and the University have learned from May 4, it is only that the state had and still has the power to use military force against its citizens who oppose government policy and that the guardsmen experienced victory over the students at Kent State.

Craig Blazinski,  
Senior, Elementary Ed.  
*Kent Stater*, March 13, 1980

Golding drops plans  
for May 4 structure

By DOUG ENGELHART

Kent State University President Brage Golding today announced he is shelving plans to construct a May 4 informational marker at the site of the 1970 campus shootings.

In a two-page written statement, Golding said almost "exclusively negative public comment" led him to conclude "not to go ahead at this time" with the construction of the site orientation marker.

The university last week revealed plans to build the marker — a brick archway at the entrance of the Prentice Hall parking lot near where national guardsmen killed four and wounded nine students.

The project, the administration explained, was to fulfill recommendations by three memorial committees that some kind of marker be built near the site of the shootings.

However, criticism has grown in the last week from campus activists, the student newspaper and others who claim the arch is inappropriate and signifies a battle triumph.

The marker was to have been 12 feet high, 18 feet long and 3 feet wide and would have rested on a circular brick foundation.

Informational brochures about the incident and a story plaque were to have been located within the archway.

Administration officials have emphasized the arch is not to signify triumph, but simply to serve as a structure passers-by may use when touring the area.

"This is regrettable," Golding said, referring to the recent criticism, "but I do not wish to give rise to further politicization of the May Fourth site."

On Tuesday, it was discovered bids for the arch's construction were at least \$10,000 higher than the original \$20,000 project estimate.

No mention of the bidding was made in the president's statement.

As late as Wednesday, some administrators had

(SEE MAY 4, PAGE 14)

May 4 marker project  
gets KSU thumbs down

(From page 1)

speculated the project would proceed despite the cost or criticism.

In his announcement, Golding did not shut off the future possibility of installing a site marker.

However, he concluded that "apparently more time must pass" before some can "separate cause and effect" and permit a "dignified recognition of the tragic consequences of May 4, 1970..."

Thursday night, about 60 architecture students questioned Ted Curtis, KSU direc-

tor of facilities, planning and operations, about the arch.

A professional architect, Curtis was responsible for the marker's design and size.

Students asked Curtis why a free standing arch was designed, especially since they claimed many persons believe structure signifies a battle triumph.

Curtis emphasized several times the arch is not meant to mean triumph, but instead would enclose space in a "dignified and graceful manner."

The arch, Curtis said, was a serene art form.

Record-Courier, March 14, 1980

Logo Change

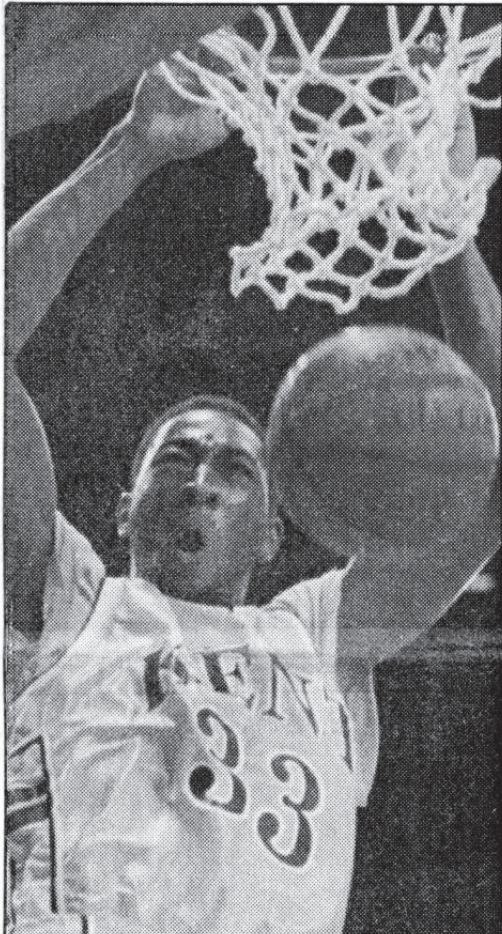
The Kent State logo was changed to place the  
emphasis on "Kent" instead of "Kent State,"  
the name associated with the shootings.

19 May 4 70  
29 YEARS LATER

How May 4 dropped the 'State' from Kent

By changing the school's logo and promoting a one-word name, some say Kent State has distanced itself from its past

By Mike Rasinski



JASON KAYE / DKS (1999)

Kent State changed its sports uniforms in the 1980s due to a plan to change the school's image.

As the seconds slowly ticked off the clock on the giant scoreboard hanging above the court, the Kent State basketball team was warming up for its big game against Temple University.

This was the first time the basketball team had made it to the NCAA Tournament, and Kent State was receiving more national attention than it had in a long time.

Thousands of fans packed the FleetCenter in Boston, cameras lined the court and reporters elbowed their way to the sideline.

Next to the clock on the scoreboard and directly above the score there were the two university's names. One side read: TEMPLE, the other: KENT ST.

It seemed normal enough — but the two Kent State sports information employees sitting in the second row couldn't believe what they were seeing.

Immediately they had the scoreboard changed.

"I was sitting next to people who were trying to change it (the name on the scoreboard) as quickly as possible with their cell phones, and it wasn't going as smoothly as possible," said Will Roleson, a past Kent State sports information assistant director.

Now, illuminated in bright yellow pixels, the word KENT appeared where KENT ST. had been.

The recent trend to refer to Kent State University as Kent is, in fact, not recent at all. In 1986, the university officially had all of its stationary and letterheads changed to draw attention to the word "Kent" while hiding the words "State University."

"We changed it (the logo) because we were bored with it," said Michael Schwartz, president of the university in 1986. "The type was ugly and black, and I just didn't like it."

The same year, the athletic department also changed its logo to emphasize the word "Kent." It is the same logo still used today: The block Kent written in blue with an eagle overlaid on the left corner and a lightning bolt shooting from its wing.

Kent State's sports information department also wants the media to refer to the university just as the uniforms dictate: simply as "Kent."

Dale (Gallagher, the former sports information director) and I tell (the media) to refer to us as "Kent," Roleson said. "It's had its share of confusion. They hear Kent, and sometimes we're mistaken for Kent University or the University of Kent."

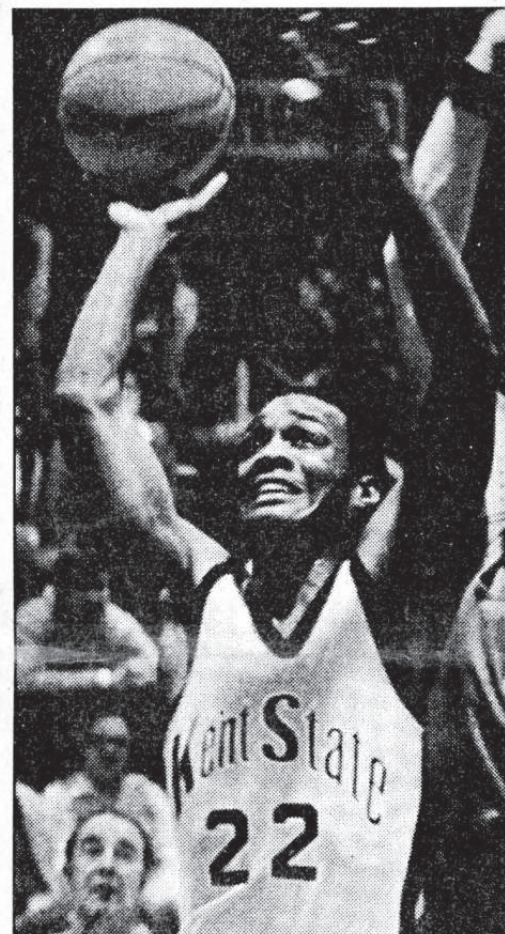
So why is it mandatory to refer to the university as Kent if it only causes confusion? The Kent State administration has a good answer for that.

In an article written in the March 31, 1986 issue of Inside Kent State magazine, William E. Shelton, vice president for Institutional Advancement said, "The decision to emphasize 'Kent' reflects 'the power of the single word advertising. It is a dynamic, memorable reference to the university.'"

But Kent State's current president Carol Cartwright said the "memorable reference" isn't as memorable as originally thought.

"There is a lot of discussion about that (the name) now," she said. "The university is confused about its image."

In the 1980s, "they wanted to get a more research image and a quality image," she said. "What they've done is create confusion. Our desire and goal is of clearing that up."



FRED SQUILLANTE / CHESTNUT BURR (1981)

Prior to the university's change in "image," athletes bore the word "State" on their uniforms.



May 4, 1970

# University building May 4 memorial

Controversy  
mars tribute  
to students

By JULIE A. ...  
Stater Staff Writer

A memorial will be built at Kent State University to mark the death of the four students who were killed and the nine students injured on May 4, 1970. In October 1985, a Memorial Design Competition was opened to the public. KSU received \$85,000 from the National Endowment of the Arts to aid in funding

Michael Fahey, a member of Taberner's team, was awarded first place, but Fahey rejected the \$20,000 prize money. KSU then claimed ownership of the design and decided to continue without the participation of Taberner or Fahey. In late April, the University announced that it had hired Taberner to work on the memorial as a consultant, but he would not be acknowledged as the winner of the competition. On May 2, the KSU Board of Trustees met at a special meeting and decided to choose another design because the University could not resolve contract issues with Taberner. The designer who received second place in the competition, Bruno Ast, a Chicago architect, was then awarded first

## Efforts to Propose a Memorial: The May 4 Task Force

the site

These graphics show



### May 4 memorial needed

Editor, Stater:

Recently the Stater published a thoughtful statement written by Prof. Gerald Newman of the KSU History department. In that article, Dr. Newman made a reasonable and articulate appeal for the creation of a permanent, proper memorial dedicated to Allison Krause, Jeffrey Miller, Sandra Scheuer and William Schroeder — the four KSU students who were killed by Ohio National Guardsmen's bullets here on this campus on May 4, 1970. Professor Newman's eloquent commentary appeared following an earlier similar appeal (reported in the Stater) which I proofed during the autumn program of the May 4th Task Force on Nov. 3 in the Kiva. He spoke for all who remain to recognize the need for a proper memorial when he stated: "One cannot help viewing the matter of our memorial as a small test of the greatness of littleness of this institution." Dr. Newman wrote brilliantly, in general philosophical terms, of the real need for lasting memorial. Earlier, my proposal included the initiatives advanced by the May 4th Task Force (an on-campus educational student organization) since last spring.

The May 4th Task Force memorial proposal includes several aspects which would generally provide the framework to make such a memorial a reality. This memorial proposal suggests:

- 1) The formation of a broad-based committee of representatives of relevant constituencies of the KSU community (including possibly undergraduate and graduate students), alumni, faculty, staff, administration, townspeople, city government and perhaps KSU victims' families, among others);
- 2) This committee would meet to achieve three goals — fund-raising, solicitation of memorial designs, and selection of proper memorial design,

to be dedicated in memory of Allison, Sandy, Jeff and Bill.

This May 4th Task Force memorial proposal was sent to faculty members as part of a survey last spring. Of those responding, the overwhelming majority responded in favor of such a memorial proposal.

Governor Rhodes (one of those successfully sued by the families of the KSU victims) now has his own memorial at the statehouse in Columbus. Vietnam veterans appropriately have their memorial in Washington, D.C. Surely, the time has now arrived when we too can memorialize our fallen four here where their blood was shed.

The student leadership of the May 4th Task Force has initiated a constructive dialogue with KSU President Schwartz concerning this memorial proposal. Further fruitful, sincere dialogue is anticipated including talks with both President Schwartz and the KSU Board of Trustees. At this time, members of the May 4th Task Force are reasonably optimistic that a suitable memorial will indeed become a reality in the near future.

The support of the KSU academic community is clearly essential to this or any similar memorial proposal. Personally, I am convinced that a committee of people like Professor Newman can independently raise the funds, seek out proposals and select an appropriate memorial which can be dedicated at the historic site on this campus.

We have all come a long way since May 4, 1970. This university would emerge stronger and more dignified if it were to gracefully approve such a memorial dedicated to the memory of Allison, Sandy, Jeff and Bill.

Alan Canfora, KSU graduate  
(one of the nine wounded students May 4, 1970)

Kent Stater, December 9, 1982

### Faculty Senate gives nod to May 4 memorial study

By TOM JENNINGS  
Stater Staff Writer

The Faculty Senate unanimously passed a resolution yesterday supporting efforts by the May 4 Task Force to get the University administration to form a May 4 memorial committee.

The resolution, which has been passed by the Undergraduate Student Senate, the Graduate Student Senate, Black United Students and Kent Interhall Council, is part of project by the Task Force to form a committee to study the possibility of a memorial for the four students killed here in 1970.

Although the Senate approved the operative clause of the document, the 10 justification clauses were

deleted because several senators felt they were political in nature.

Milton Manes, a Chemistry professor, said that he is "generally supportive" of the Task Force proposal, but "the statement (in the resolution) that reads 'it has been acknowledged that the shootings at Kent State were the single most influential event contributing to the end of the war in Vietnam' is political and could be disputed," he said.

The Senate voted to delete the clauses 15 to 11. Other clauses deleted include: "the desire for a memorial has existed virtually since the day of the shootings," "the nation has proven itself able to look at

(See "Resolution," Page 9)

Kent Stater, November 8, 1983

### Task Force makes progress toward memorial

By ROSS SNEYD  
Stater Staff Writer

The May 4th Task Force hopes to meet with a committee of the KSU Board of Trustees next week to form a committee to explore establishing a memorial to the four students killed here May 4, 1970.

Trustees received a letter from the Task Force at their Feb. 24 meeting requesting them to consider forming a committee to look into establishing a memorial to the students killed by Ohio National Guard Troops during an anti-war rally.

Representatives of the Task Force were told that the proposal would be assigned to the Board's Academic and Student Affairs Committee. The next meeting scheduled for the committee is May 6.

"We won't know until Monday if we're even going to get to speak," May 4th Task Force co-chairman Jeff McVann said. He explained that groups wishing to appear before a Board committee must petition for permission. The Task Force will find out the decision on their petition Monday.

McVANN SAID University Secretary George Urban told the group that they might be permitted to address the full board at its next meeting at the end of May.

In its letter to the Board, the Task Force proposed that the committee, which would be appointed by University President Michael Schwartz, be composed of undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, administration, townspeople, alumni and members of the Task Force.

"It is time to recognize the historical significance of the situation and we hope you will join us in the process," the Task Force letter read.

"We feel the time has come when people can deal with the many aspects of the Vietnam War which, of course, includes the tragedy at Kent State," it continued. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., is an example of the public's acceptance of events of that time, the Task Force said.

"I'm quite optimistic," McVann said. "We've gone through channels and haven't tried to force anything on anyone. I think we have a much better chance this time."

THE TASK FORCE'S proposal has the support of the Undergraduate Student Senate and the Graduate Student Senate, both of which passed resolutions in favor of it.

"Thirteen years have passed since the tragic shootings on the Kent State campus giving society the ability to look back objectively on the incident and put it in its proper perspective," the resolutions of both senates said.

The proposal also has the support of the families of the students who were killed and wounded in 1970, according to Alan Canfora, one of the students who was wounded.

"The families are united in their opinion," he said. The families have indicated that they are either in favor of or not opposed to the establishment of a memorial, he said.

"I THINK it's a reasonable request the Task Force has made," Canfora said, "and I think there should be a permanent memorial to the four students killed at Kent State University."

The political climate is more conducive to the establishment of a memorial now than it was in the past, he said. Kent State has a new president and Ohio has a new governor, both factors which make a memorial more likely, he said.

The previous KSU administration "was insensitive" to the May 4th issue, as was the administration of former Gov. James A. Rhodes, Canfora said.

"It's a much better climate to approach a proposal such as this," he said. "I'm optimistic I think it's the final unfinished piece of business."

"My personal view is, yes, I think it's appropriate," Schwartz said. "They're (the Task Force) doing it exactly right. They're using

the process. "There's probably going to be mixed feelings among Board members," Schwartz said. "I think the May 4th Task Force recommendation is to establish a fairly broad committee to study the issue."

SCHWARTZ SAID he also supports the annual commemoration on the Commons. However, "It mustn't be allowed to degenerate into anything other than that," he said.

"Politicizing it really defames what happened here," he said. He described the events of May 4, 1970, as a "great modern tragedy."

"There was a loss to this University of students and, for a time, of faith in itself," Schwartz said. "That's recovered. To abuse that is the worst sort of defamation."

"The failure to learn the meaning of that, the failure to learn that that event was part of the range of human possibilities, is a great mistake," he said.

The annual commemoration is "an attempt to understand what the range of human possibilities is,"

Kent Stater, April 29, 1983

### The May 4 Task Force Succeeds

Progress is made toward building the memorial, and the proposal is sent to the Board of Trustees.

## Trustees OK May 4 memorial study

### Two-year effort of May 4 task force pays off

By TOM JENNINGS  
Editorial Editor

Two years ago the May 4 Task Force began efforts to form a committee to determine if a memorial to the four students killed here in 1970 would be appropriate. On Dec. 9, 1983, those efforts paid off.

The KSU Board of Trustees passed a resolution from the Task Force that stated, "this committee will be charged with assessing the historical significance of the events which took place on this campus on May 4, 1970, including the killing of four students, and, in light of this assessment, with determining what sort of permanent memorial,

if any, should be established."

The approval by the Trustees gives Task Force members and President Schwartz authorization to form a committee from the University to decide if a May 4 memorial is appropriate.

ALTHOUGH NO timetable has been set for the formation of the committee, Betsy Ricksecker, co-chairperson of the Task Force, said she expects to hear from Schwartz during the next few weeks.

"President Schwartz will be contacting us at the beginning of this semester. The Task Force will be

working with him to finalize plans for the application process and selection of committee members," she said.

Ricksecker said the committee that will be formed is different from attempts of the past. This committee will decide if a memorial is necessary, and if so, what it should be. Past committees have tried to approve a specific design.

"This is the best way for a peaceful memorial to be obtained, and that's what we're aiming for," she said.

The committee, which has been endorsed by the Faculty Senate,

the Graduate and Undergraduate Student senates, Black United Students and Kent Interhall Council, will make recommendations to Schwartz on their findings.

THE TASK FORCE had proposed that the committee consist of 14 members and encompass members of the Task Force, the Kent community, KSU faculty, alumni, undergraduates, graduates and administration and an appointed chairman.

Ricksecker said the Task Force's committee proposal may be modified because it is "hard for a large group to come to a consensus."

Kent Stater, January 17, 1984



# KSU Approves Plans for a Permanent Memorial

## The May 4 Committee

KSU's May 4 Memorial Committee was established by Kent State's Board of Trustees and appointed by President Michael Schwartz. The charge of the Committee was to determine the meaning of the events of May 4, 1970 to the University and to propose a suitable permanent memorial if the Committee deemed that appropriate. The Committee held its first meeting on March 21, 1984 and submitted its conclusions to the University in December of 1984. The Committee had three recommendations:

### 1 Develop a Memorial

The University should develop a physical memorial to May 4. The Committee recommended that the memorial...

- A. Would be designed in the form of a "reflective site" emphasizing inquiry, learning, and reflection.
- B. Includes the brochure, one copy of which would be permanently affixed.
- C. Includes the text of the conclusion of the President's Commission on Campus Unrest.
- D. Includes a physical expression regarding the deaths of the four students.
- E. Includes a statement that would list the various other memorials existing elsewhere on campus.
- F. Includes the text of the historical statement in Section 2 of their report.

### 2 Location

The University should locate the Memorial on the wooded site northwest of Taylor Hall on top of a small hill facing the tennis courts.

### 3 Research Grants

The University should initiate research grants. The purpose of these grants would be to encourage scholarship and investigation of the May 4th events, the Vietnam War era, and strategies for peaceful change.

The Committee's report, according to an Editorial in the *Kent Stater*, "did not cast blame on anyone [sic] that was not its purpose. The Committee recommends that the memorial, whatever it shall be, should be a site that 'reflects the diverse constituencies and meanings' of May 4" (January 24, 1985).

Kent State University Libraries. Special Collections & Archives.

## KSU faces past in memorial

By KEN KRIZNER  
Stater Staff Writer

After 15 years, Kent State appears ready to face its past.

The approval by the KSU Board of Trustees of a permanent memorial to the four students who were killed on May 4, 1970, ends years of trying by various groups to have the University officially erect a memorial on campus.

"I think the entire University will be able to look at the events of May 4, 1970, in a different light now," said Harry Ausprich, chairman of the May 4 Memorial Committee. "I consider it one of the most important and rewarding assignments I've ever had."

**THE COMMITTEE** was originally proposed by the May 4 Task Force in 1982. A number of ideas were submitted on how May 4 could be memorialized, said Rod Flauhaus, chairman of the May 4 Task Force and a member of the original committee.

"We came up with a lot of ideas, including the restoration of the Victory Bell, with a plaque being placed there," Flauhaus said. "Then we decided to take a step back and decide if there should be a memorial."

After deciding that a memorial was needed, the Task Force took its proposal to KSU President Michael Schwartz. On May 6, 1983, the organization was allowed to meet with the Board of Trustees to discuss its ideas.

"They (the Trustees) were very receptive to us," Flauhaus said. "We read statements from the families of the students and read our own statements."

**"WE HAD A** good meeting and the Trustees asked a lot of questions. They told us to work with George Urban (retired secretary of the University) and develop ideas."

Flauhaus said it took the Task Force the better part of the summer and fall of 1983 to form proposals to take to the Trustees.

He said the Task Force wanted open applications so anyone who wanted to be on the committee could apply.

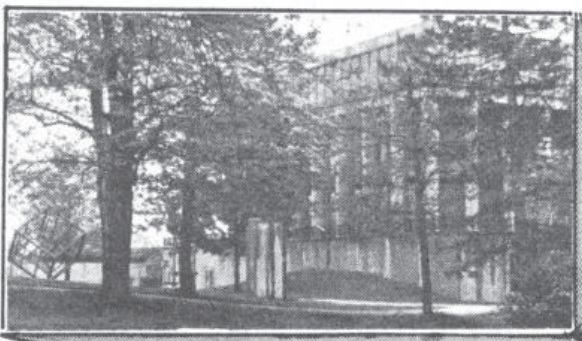
"We wrote out our objectives and communicated what we think should happen," Flauhaus said. "The Trustees re-evaluated the proposal and revised who should be on the committee."

**"THE TRUSTEES** felt that President Schwartz should pick the committee," Flauhaus said. "But the Trustees were intrigued with our proposal and complimented us on our work."

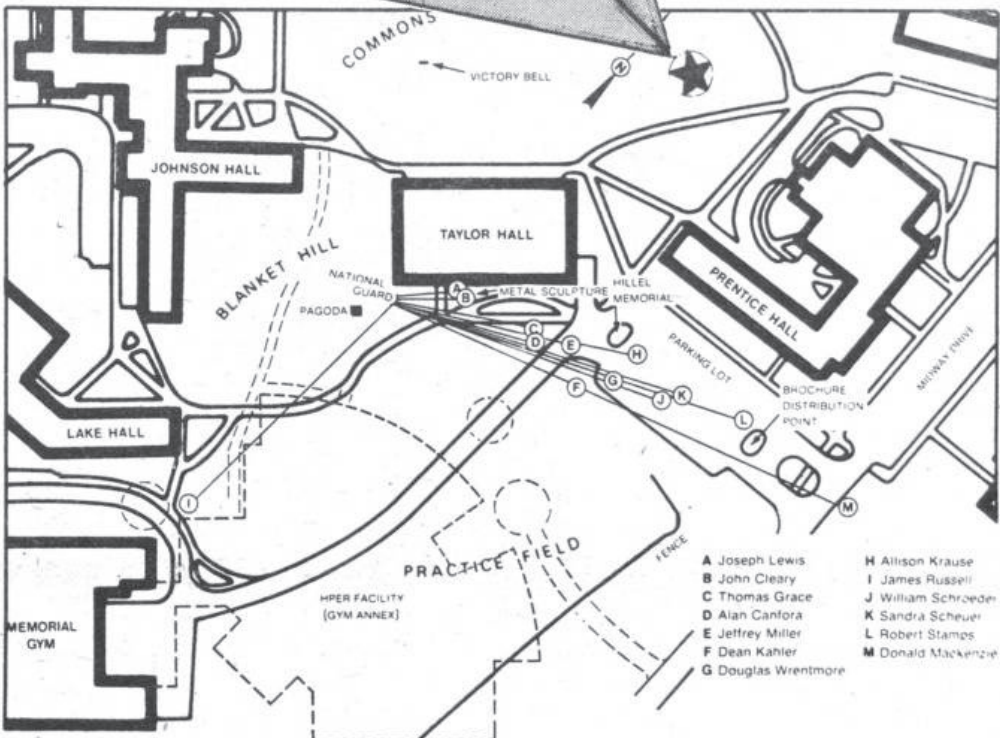
Schwartz then asked Ausprich to chair the committee, which consisted of community leaders, alumni, administration and students.

"We had no interference at all," Ausprich said. "No one gave us a problem at all."

**AUSPRICH SAID** the goal of the committee was to "determine the meaning of May 4 to the University and whether or not there should be a suitable, permanent memorial."



May 4 Memorial location





# Contesting Opinion About a Memorial

1985

## Parents of the Slain Students Express Divergent Viewpoint

Elaine Holstein, mother of Jeffrey Miller, one the students killed on May 4, 1970, spoke in support of a memorial. The parents of Allison Krause, Sandra Scheuer, and William Schroeder, the other three students killed on May 4, did not speak positively about a memorial.



## Memorial pleases slain students' parents

By JENNY FEEHAN  
News Editor

After the establishment of the May 4 Memorial Committee by KSU President Michael Schwartz last March, Elaine (Miller) Holstein told the *Stater* she had no interest in a memorial. Her son Jeffrey was one of the four students slain on May 4, 1970, at Kent State.

On Jan. 23, the KSU Board of Trustees approved the committee's recommendation that a memorial be constructed behind Taylor Hall, and Holstein said

she's pleased with that decision. "I had sort of given up hope," she said. "I had stopped beating my head against the wall, but I was very delighted to hear of the decision. It's good for people to remember."

"AS FAR as I'm concerned, I've been bitter long enough. It (the memorial) has taken long enough, but I think it's a very good thing."

Doris Krause did not react as positively to the memorial decision. Her 19-year-old daughter Allison was also a victim of the May 4 incident.

"It's 15 — not 14 — years too

late," she said. "Why did it have to be coerced for so long?"

Krause said she has no idea if the memorial will finally settle the May 4 controversy, but that the tragedy "will never end for us."

SARAH SCHEUER shares Krause's opinion that the memorial is coming too late. Scheuer's 20-year-old daughter Sandra was killed while walking to class on May 4, 1970.

"They should have had one long ago," she said. "It doesn't help me, but it may make others think."

Referring to KSU students to-

day — most of whom were too young to even know about the events of May 4 — Scheuer said she doesn't know what impact the memorial will have on them.

"I don't know if it will make any difference to them or not," she said. "I think it would be a tribute to those that died and maybe make people stop and think... so maybe something like this will never happen again."

The 12-member memorial committee was appointed last spring to assess the historical significance of the May 4 incident and determine if and what

kind of memorial should be established.

THE COMMITTEE'S report recommended the construction of a physical memorial that would be a "reflective site" and the initiation of research grants to encourage further investigation into May 4, the Vietnam War and strategies for peaceful change.

University officials are presently working with the National Endowment for the Arts to plan a national design competition for the memorial. President Schwartz said KSU must apply for matching funds to the Endowment by May 15, and until then only tentative plans for the design competition can be made.

Kent Stater, February 15, 1985

## Victim's parents mum on Kent State memorial

By GEORGE VERBAN  
C-T Staff Writer

ELYRIA — A couple whose daughter was among four students slain at Kent State University in 1970 say they will not take part in the school's plans to build a memorial in honor of the victims.

Louis and Florence Schroeder of Lorain said this morning they do not plan to join in any future any activity concerning the memorial either.

"We feel that our grief and our mourning is more private since the civil suit was settled," Mrs. Schroeder said. "We would rather not talk about it any further."

Their 19-year-old son William and three other students were shot and killed by Ohio National Guardsmen during an anti-Vietnam War rally at Kent State University on May 4, 1970.

SCHROEDER WAS attending

Kent on a ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) scholarship. He did not join anti-war demonstrators, but was accidentally shot when National Guardsmen fired on students.

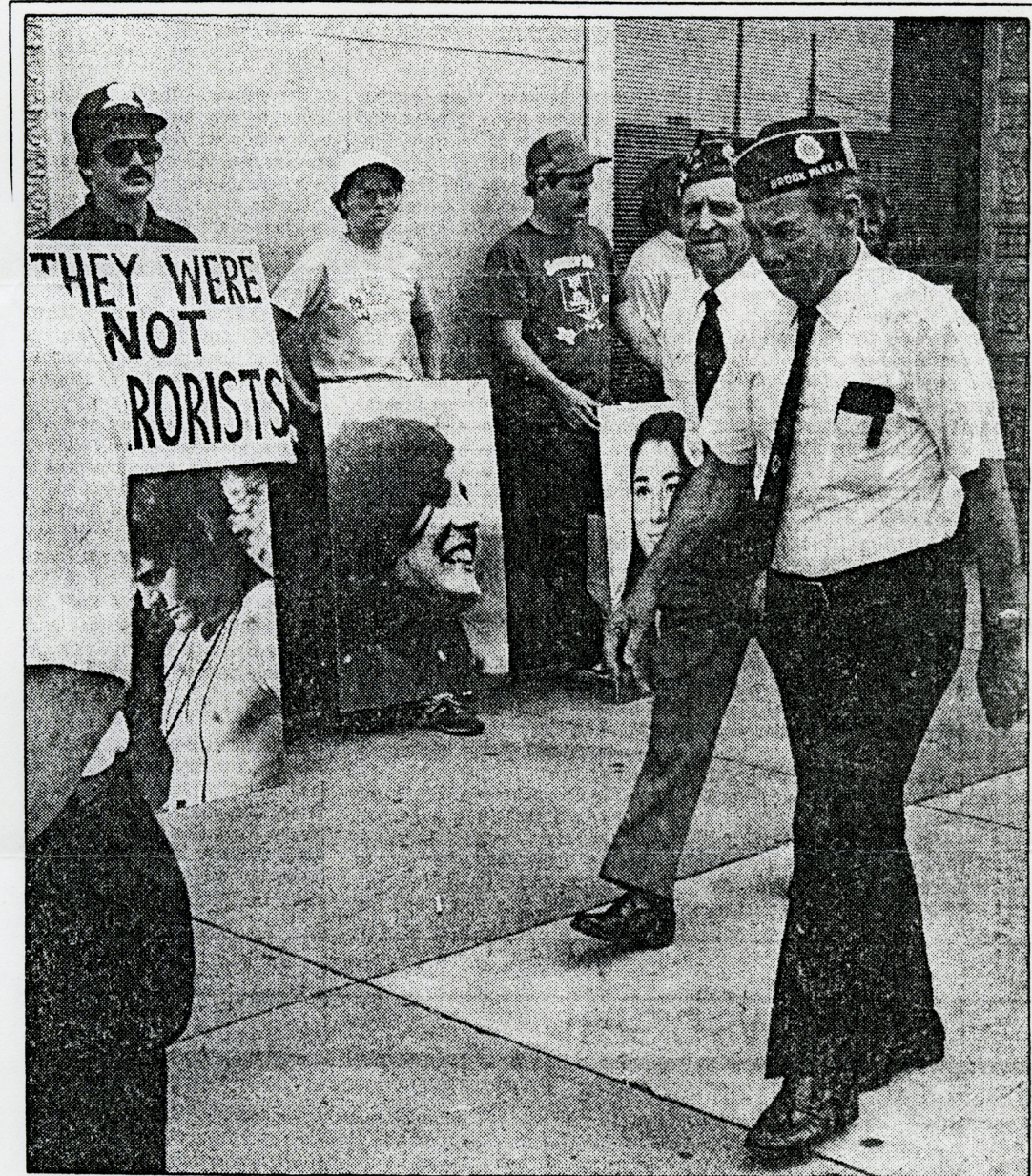
At least one other parent of a slain student shares their feelings.

"Our preference would have been to have left the site as it was, but the university preferred to do something different... If someone else wants to do a memorial, that's their desire, but we would prefer not to be involved with it," Arthur Krause of Churchill, Pa., near Pittsburgh, said Wednesday.

Krause's daughter, Allison, was 19 when she was shot to death by National Guardsman on May 4, 1970, during an anti-war protest against the invasion of Cambodia. The shootings occurred at the bottom of a hill on the northeastern Ohio campus.

Chronicle Telegram, February 8, 1985

The American Legion of Ohio passed a resolution in opposition to the memorial on July 12, 1986. "The only thing the guardsmen were guilty of," one veteran was quoted as saying, "was being poor shots."



American Legion convention delegates walk past May 4 Foundation members Sonny Canfora, Kendra Hicks, Thomas Petty and Alan Cantora outside Stouffer Inn On The Square. Foundation members were protesting a vote by Legionnaires to oppose a memorial to the shooting victims at Kent State University.

## Legion votes to fight memorial for students slain at Kent State

The Plain Dealer, July 13, 1986

Cartoonist Chuck Ayers lampoons the Ohio Unit of the American Legion for destroying the May 4 Memorial and, along with it, the possibility for peace and understanding.



Akron Beacon Journal, July 15, 1986



# Adviser chosen for May 4 memorial

By REGINA BREYER  
Staff Writer

A nationwide competition for a May 4 memorial will be underway by December, headed by architect Paul Spreiregen, professional adviser for the Vietnam War Memorial competition. Spreiregen, who has advised Vietnam veterans in designing a competition for the memorial in Washington, D.C., was hired by KSU President Michael Schwartz to design a competition for a memorial to the victims of the May 4, 1970, shootings. Schwartz said, "We were not about to

Italy. He has written two books, *Urban Design: The Architecture of Towns* and *Urban Design: The Architecture of the Suburb*. Spreiregen was a finalist for a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to partially fund the competition. He would not disclose the amount requested. If the grant is awarded, the competition

has to be done," Schwartz said. A topographical map of the site is being prepared along with a preliminary design. The memorial site is located on a small hill northeast of Taylor Hall on top of a small hill facing the tennis courts, as stated in the May 4 Memorial Committee report. Schwartz and Spreiregen expect the competition to generate the same interest that produced 1,400 designs submitted in the Vietnam War memorial competition. "I hope a lot of students will enter this. It was a student who won the Vietnam veterans' memorial competition.

Vietnam memorial. Spreiregen commended the University for its role in contacting on a memorial. "What the University is doing is an act of responsibility. Society must acknowledge the tragedy. Carrying the burden of it, even though it is painful, matures and enlarges society," he said. Though Spreiregen said he must take a dispassionate role to make sure the competition gets the best possible design, his feelings about the memorial are strong. "I COULDN'T WORK on it if I didn't feel very deeply about it. I think it's a terribly, terribly important thing to do. Nothing can ever erase what happened

KSU Board of Trustees accepted the recommendation of the Memorial Committee and instructed President Schwartz to initiate a national design competition, partial funding for which came from an \$85,000 grant awarded to the University by the National Endowment of the Arts. Paul Spreiregen, who previously served as advisor to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial competition, was named the May 4 Memorial Advisor, overseeing a jury comprising professional architects, landscape architects, artists, and an environmental author. The jury would select 1st place (to be awarded \$20,000) 2nd place (\$10,000), and 3rd place (\$5,000), and up to ten honorable mention awards (\$500 each).

1985



May 4 Memorial Design Competition Jury. Kent State University Libraries, Special Collections & Archives.

Adopting many of the recommendations made by the May 4 Memorial Committee, the Memorial Competition, as laid out in the *Design Program*, stipulated that while the “purpose of the Memorial is to emphasize inquiry, learning, and reflection and to elevate the thoughts of visitors to a larger realm of awareness,” the Memorial should not “be an expression of accusation or praise” (page 16). With respect to the four slain students, according to the requirements, “The Memorial Design is to include a physical expression regarding the four students who died.” This physical expression need not necessarily include the slain students’ names.



University officials receive memorial design submissions in the mail room. Kent State University Libraries. Special Collections & Archives.

## A NATIONAL OPEN DESIGN COMPETITION FOR ARCHITECTS, ARTISTS, DESIGNERS, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS, SCULPTORS

You are invited to enter a National Open Design Competition for a memorial to the events of May 4, 1970, at Kent State University in Kent, Ohio. On that day, an on-campus confrontation between students protesting the invasion of Cambodia and the Ohio National Guard resulted in the deaths of four students and the wounding of nine others. The memorial will both commemorate this tragedy and serve as an affirmation of the rights, responsibilities, and tenets inherent in a democracy. The memorial is to be neither accusatory nor heroic, rather it is hoped that it will elevate our thought to the highest purposes of our society, but with full and heartfelt acknowledgement of the tragedy that required this reminder. The competition is open to all American designers, it will be professionally managed and juried. Winners will be publicly acknowledged. An appropriate contract with the winning designer will be arranged.

FIRST PRIZE	\$20,000
SECOND PRIZE	10,000
THIRD PRIZE	5,000
10 HONORABLE MENTIONS	

For further information write:  
**MAY 4 MEMORIAL COMPETITION**  
**Kent State University**  
**Kent, Ohio 44242**

### REQUIREMENTS OF THE MEMORIAL DESIGN

- Kent State University places the question of a proper Memorial design before the minds and hearts of American designers. The University does this with a fully open attitude, without preconception as to what the Memorial should be. In reading the competition documents, designers will see that emphasis has been given to describing the campus, the May 4th events, and the site of the Memorial itself. We have purposefully refrained from prescribing a design, or expressing a design predilection. Rather, we have attempted to inform designer-competitors in such a way as to inspire the broadest range of artistic sensitivity. While we state that we have no preconceived idea as to what the Memorial should be, we do have a hope as to what it may accomplish. In the creation of this Memorial, the University sees the achievement of a purpose that hovers about yet transcends the events of May 4. While it is not possible to disassociate the actions of the individuals and groups of May 4 from the contemplative thoughts of a visitor to the Memorial, neither is it intended that the Memorial be an expression of accusation or praise. The events of May 4 cannot be erased. Neither can the fact that four students died, that nine were wounded, and that many who erred acted as they did. The Memorial is not to rest with that but to use it as a point of departure. The design is not to be a political expression. The purpose of the Memorial is to emphasize inquiry, learning, and reflection and to elevate the thoughts of visitors to a larger realm of awareness. It is the University's hope that those who experience it will gain a strengthened sense of our highest values as Americans. With that in mind, certain requirements must be satisfied. They are:
1. The Memorial itself must be located on the sloped and wooded site shown in the Memorial Area Site Plan, scale 1/8" = 1'0".

2. Subsidiary design elements may be proposed outside the Memorial Site Area, as adjuncts to the primary Memorial design. These may be located anywhere in the 28-acre area referred to as the Memorial Setting, (Commons - Practice Field - parking lot area - Blanket Hill).

3. The Memorial should be harmonious with its site. It should be an artistic "incident" alongside a pedestrian pathway.

4. The Memorial should be accessible at all hours and in all seasons. It should have no barriers for the handicapped. It should pose no physical hazards.

5. While a precise budget for the Memorial cannot be set, designers should be mindful of cost. Cost should be within fund raising expectations, donors likely being individuals. The sponsor envisions a construction budget in the range of not more than a half million dollars.

6. Materials should be appropriate to the climate, durable, non-corrosive, and capable of graceful aging.

7. The sloped site is wooded. Trees may be removed consistent with the design and the needs of construction. New trees may be planted. But the general wooded character of the slope is to be maintained.

8. Changes in topography are allowed, consistent with the design.

9. The gatherings of groups of people, as for memorial ceremonies, should be possible, but on a small scale. Designers may wish to consider how the Memorial will serve for May 4 memorial ceremonies.

10. The Memorial should be easy to maintain, and not require any unusual or costly maintenance tasks.

11. The Memorial design is to include a physical expression regarding the four students who died. This is to be of a most appropriate nature.

12. Related to the Memorial design, and located in a convenient and appropriate place, is to be a small "distribution device" from which visitors may obtain informational brochures. This distribution device should be open on one side, its top offering protection for the informational brochures against the weather. The informational brochure(s) will include such information as the following:
  - A Visitor's Guide to the May 4th Site; the Commons, and the parking lot. (A copy of the brochure presently in use is enclosed).
  - Information regarding other places or memorials on campus; the May 4th room in the Central Library, the metal sculpture, the B'nai B'rith Memorial.
  - The concluding text of the President's Commission on Campus Unrest, 1970.
  - The text of a University Committee report entitled "What Has Been Learned from these Events", 1984.



# Winners Announced, Difficulties Ensure

Ian Taberner's original winning design. *Design Program. Kent State University Libraries. Special Collections & Archives.*

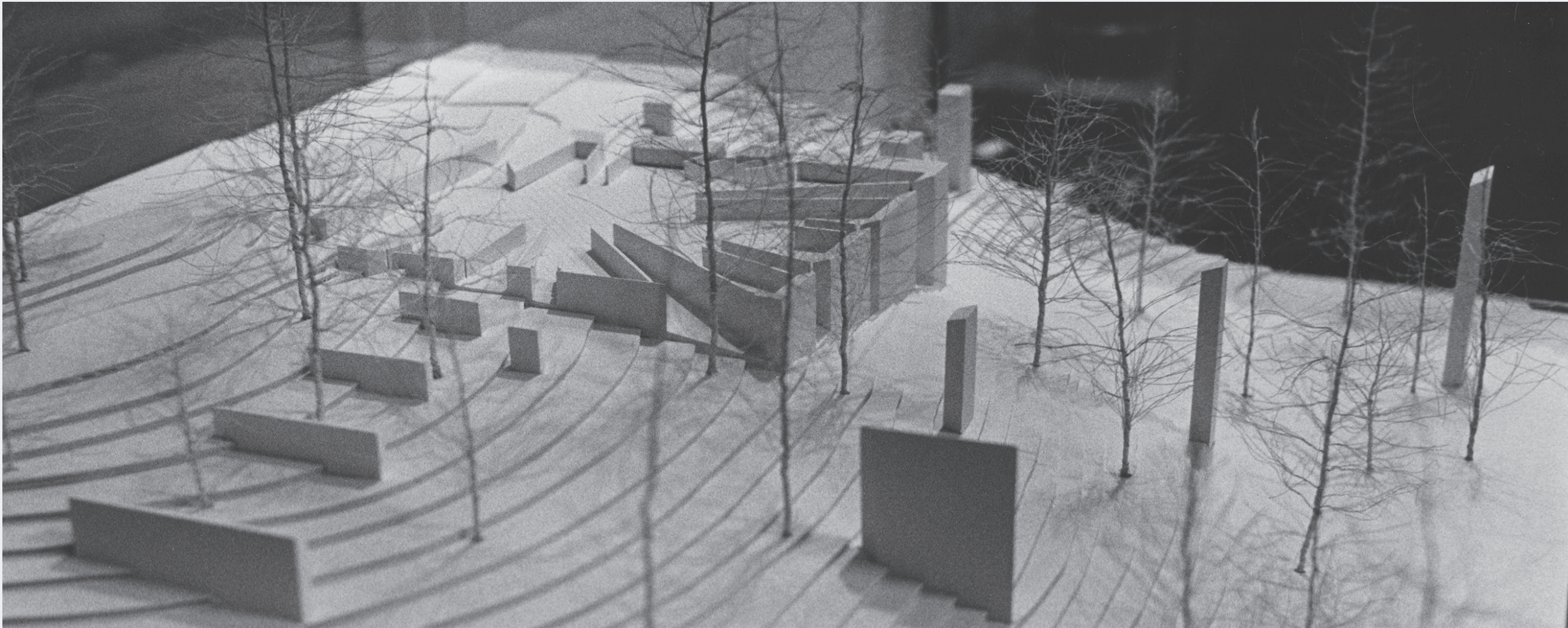
1986

## Winner of Memorial Design Competition Disqualified

Of the nearly 700 entries, the jury awarded First Prize to Ian Taberner. He was then disqualified when he reported to President Schwartz that he was not a U.S. citizen, a violation of the competition rules. Taberner's winning design, like the designs that were awarded Second and Third Prize, fulfilled the requirement for "a physical expression regarding the four students who died" through abstract symbolism, rather than including their names.

Bruno Ast, originally awarded Second Prize, was named the winner of the competition.

Alan Canfora, one of the nine wounded, commented on the failed negotiations between the University and Taberner. Quoted in the *Kent Stater*, Canfora said the KSU administration shut down talks because Taberner "was sympathetic to the sentiments of the family of the victims" and the need for "the inclusion of the names of the slain students and possibly the wounded students in the memorial" (*Kent Stater*, July 9, 1986, page 3). Taberner filed a \$2 million lawsuit against the University. He was awarded a \$15,000 settlement in May 1987.



Model of Bruno Ast's design for the May 4 Memorial, named the winner after Taberner's disqualification. *Kent State University Libraries. Special Collections & Archives.*

### DESIGN STATEMENT

(submitted with design)

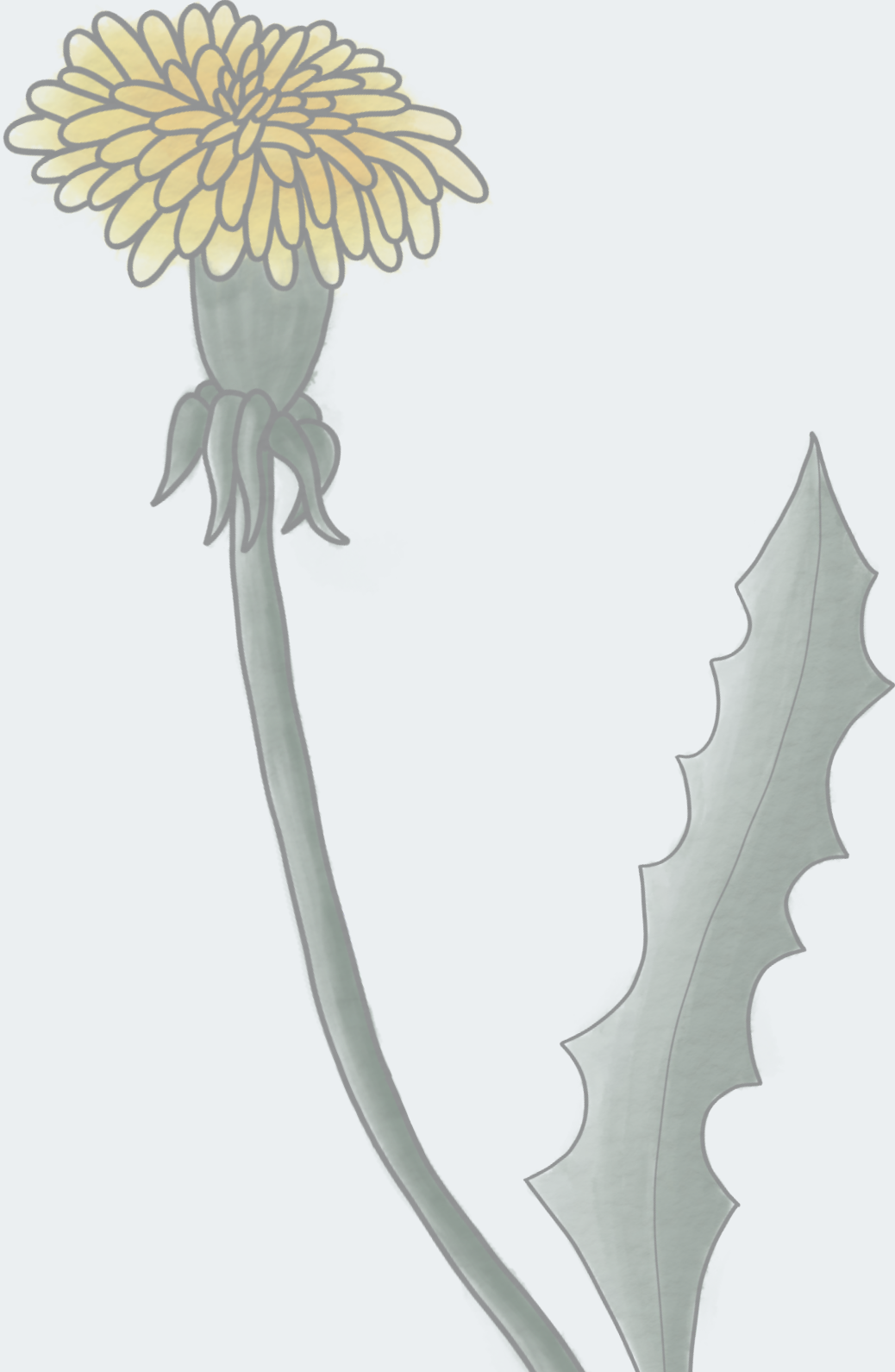
' It is possible to provide security against other ills, but as far as death is concerned, we men all live in a city without walls.'  
Epicurus 3rd. C. B.C.

The paving pattern symbolizes the 13 persons directly affected by the May 4, 1970 event. These persons are signified by polished black marble disks set into the eighteen inch square gray blue flame cut granite pavers. The rough hewn rose colored granite perimeter wall is sheared revealing polished edges. The sheared wall piece is transposed upon the landscape as a pylon, suggesting the wider impact of these events on the social, physical and psychological fabric of our society.

Visitors may enter or leave the memorial proper through a gate-like opening from the walkway or by the incised inclines in the memorial volume made by the fragmentation of the perimeter. There is to be no writing or realistic representations. The terrain is left as much as possible undisturbed around the memorial and every attempt is made to retain the greatest number of existing trees.

The Memorial marks the event of May 4, 1970 and the promise for an enlightened future. It suggests containment and escape.

Bruno Ast's Design Statement, explaining the symbolic meaning of his winning memorial design. *Kent State University Libraries. Special Collections & Archives.*









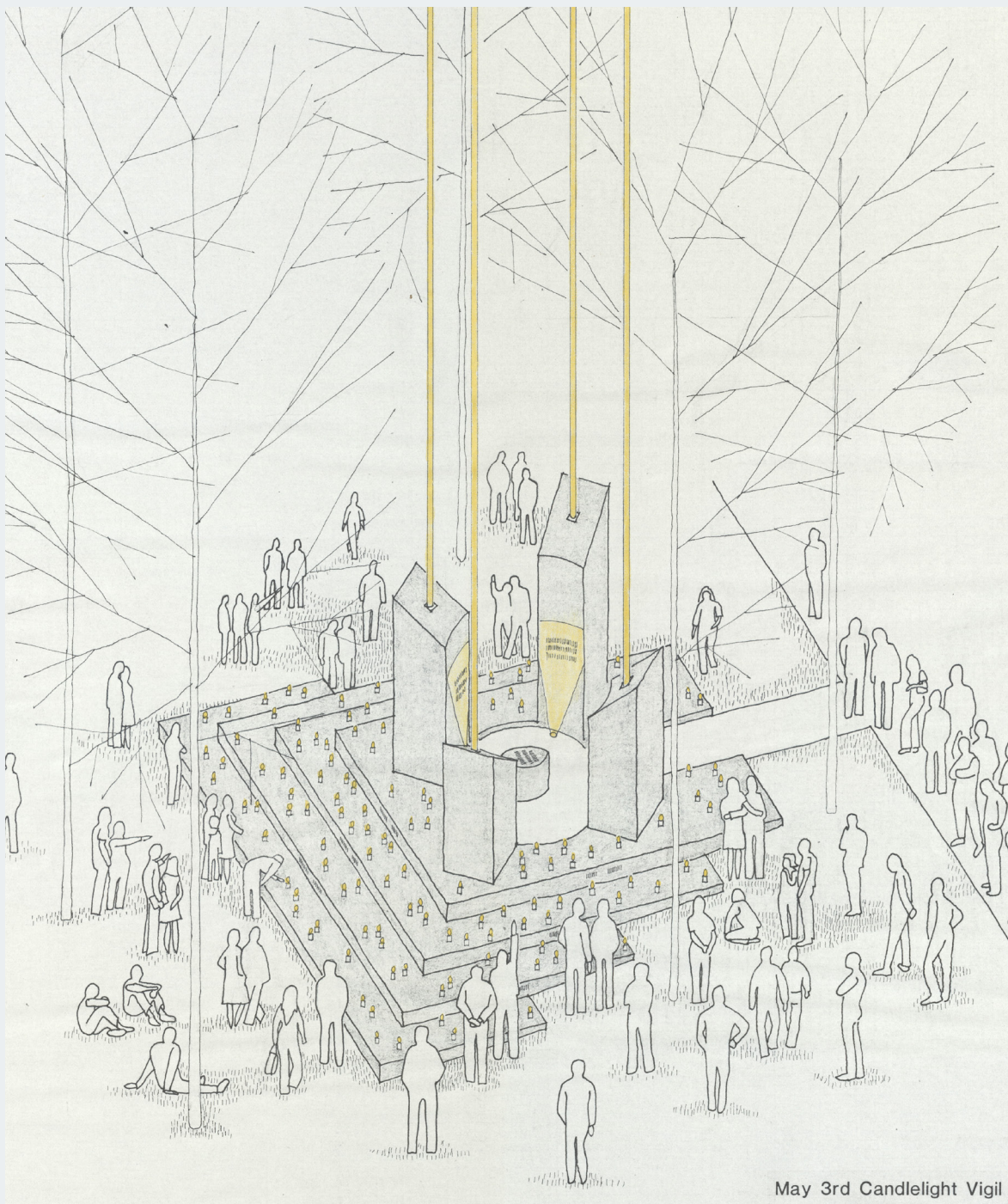


B'nai B'rith Hillel Marker, dedicated May 4, 1971.

# Remember Their Names

The three designs originally selected by the jury for First, Second, and Third Prize in the Memorial Design Competition did not include the names of the slain students. These designs fulfilled the requirement for “a physical expression regarding the four students who died” through abstract symbolism.

1990



John Cleary's May 4 Memorial design submission. Kent State University Libraries. Special Collections & Archives.

John Cleary, one of the nine wounded who went on to become an architect, submitted the design, shown on the left, to the competition. The names of the slain students appear on the pillars and the names of the nine wounded on the risers between the steps.

As he noted in his design statement, “The circle and pillars surrounding it were intended to embrace the visitor and create an intimate experience. Each pillar will be engraved with the name of a student who died on May 4th and a brief biography to acquaint the visitor to who these people were, their dreams and ambitions; to make their loss as human beings more acute.”

## Victims’ names to be placed near memorial

By Craig Webb  
Staff Writer

The Kent State administration has changed its position and decided to place a plaque next to the May 4 Memorial with the names of the four KSU students killed and the nine others wounded in the May 4, 1970, shooting.

Lowell Croskey, vice president for Facilities, Planning and Operations, said that the names will be placed on a granite plaque separate from the memorial.

“It is our intent that it (the plaque) will be ready in time for the dedication,” Croskey said. “This was decided today; the decision

came from the president’s office.”

Kent State President Michael Schwartz declined to comment about the addition of the plaque.

Sarah Scheuer, mother of Sandra Scheuer, one of the KSU students slain by the Ohio National Guard in 1970, said she was told by Schwartz about the addition of the plaque when they visited the memorial Wednesday.

“I think the names should have been on the memorial since the beginning, but the architect said they shouldn’t, at least that’s what they (the administration) told me,” she said. “It’s more meaningful with the names.”

Scheuer said the plaque will be placed on the southeast side of the memorial, near the Prentice Hall dorm.

“I just didn’t feel having pamphlets (explaining what happened) was enough,” she said. “Who knows? In a few years the pamphlets may be all gone and no one would even know why the memorial was built.

“People will understand the memorial more with the names on it.”

Scheuer said that she and her husband Louis haven’t decided yet if they will attend the memorial’s May 4 dedication ceremony.

“I don’t know if we will be at the dedication,” she said. “We will be there for the

commemoration ceremony, but we will not go to the lunch that is planned at two o’clock after the dedication. It would be too upsetting.”

Jerry M. Lewis, sociology professor and co-chair of the May 4 Commission, said he thought that the names were added at the request of the families of the slain students.

“We, as a university community, have tried to the best of our abilities to follow the wishes of the families,” he said.

Myra West, assistant physics professor and co-chair of the commission, said the commission did not make a specific request for the names to be added.

“I recall that in a number of talks in subcommittee that the issue of the names came up,” she said. “Most of us in that subcommittee thought the plaque that named the donors was not appropriate, but adding the names of the students is appropriate.”

The names of the slain students to be added to the plaque are: Allison Krause, Sandra Scheuer, William Schroeder, and Jeffrey Miller.

The wounded students to be added include: Alan Canfora, John Cleary, Thomas Grace, Dean Kahler, Joseph Lewis, Donald Scott Mackenzie, James Russell, Robert Stamps, and Douglas Wrentmore.

Kent Stater, April 26, 1990



Names plaque. Kent State University Libraries, Special Collections & Archives.



# Groundbreaking, Protest, Dedication

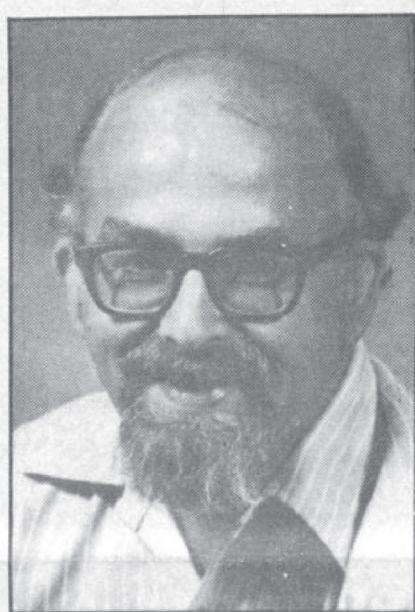
Excavating the site for the May 4 Memorial. Kent State University Libraries. Special Collections & Archives.

The May 4 Task Force sought to prevent the groundbreaking for construction of the May 4 Memorial. Their request for a temporary restraining order was denied by the Portage County Common Pleas Court.

1989

## May 4 speakers could be remedy in healing process

Victim's mother  
to be included  
in ceremony



Jerry Lewis  
Task Force Adviser  
*Kent Stater*, March 16, 1990



May 4 Memorial Dedication, May 4, 1990. Kent State University Libraries. Special Collections & Archives.



Protesting the memorial at the dedication. Kent State University Libraries. Special Collections & Archives.

Three weeks prior to the dedication ceremony, President Schwartz spent \$49,000 on an advertising campaign encouraging all Ohioans to set aside differences and come together to heal the wounds of May 4, 1970. The expenditure rekindled animosity among those who opposed the scaling down of the memorial ("Editorial," *Kent Stater*, April 11, 1990, page 2).

The May 4 Task Force and the Progressive Student Network protested at the dedication of the May 4 Memorial. The *Kent Stater* reported that the groups planned "a disciplined, unified and silent protest at the dedication ceremony to show that the controversy continues over the size, form, meaning and means through which the memorial was decided upon" (April 24, 1990, page 1).

Somewhere between 2,000 and 3,000 people attended the May 4 Memorial dedication ceremonies, including the Schroeders and the Scheuers, parents of two of the slain students. Governor Richard Celeste apologized to the families of the students who were killed on May 4, 1970. Other speakers included President Schwartz, Florence Schroeder, mother of William Schroeder, one of the slain students, Dean Kahler, one of the nine students wounded, Richard Bredemeier, Vice Provost and Dean of Student Affairs, and Jerry Lewis, Professor of Sociology. George McGovern, U.S. Senator and 1972 Democratic Party presidential nominee, served as the keynote speaker, and Myra West, Assistant Professor of Physics and Faculty Senate Chair, served as moderator.



Aerial Photograph of the May 4 Memorial dedication. Kent State University Libraries. Special Collections & Archives.





# Lessons Learned, and Learned Anew

1990

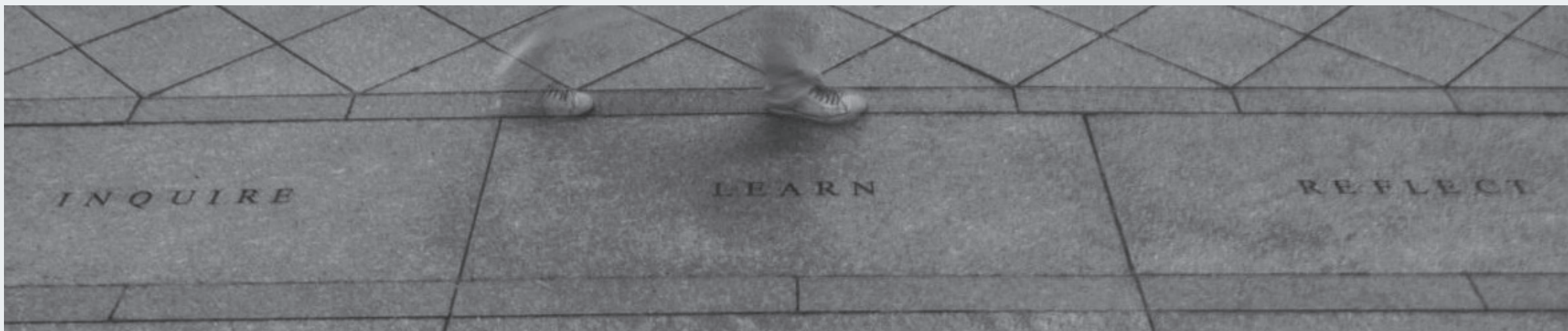
The May 4 Memorial was dedicated in 1990, twenty years after the tragedy and four years after the competition.

In addition to the names plaque, which remembers those directly effected by the tragedy, the surrounding 58,175 daffodils recall the Americans who lost their lives in the Vietnam War.



Daffodils surrounding the May 4 Memorial. *The News-Herald*, May, 4 2018

Engraved in the plaza’s stone threshold are the words “Inquire, Learn, Reflect.” The inscription, initially resisted by architect Bruno Ast, who instructed that his design refrain from including language of any kind, affirms the University’s intent that the memorial site provide visitors an opportunity to inquire into the reasons prompting the events, to encourage a learning process, and to reflect on how differences may be resolved peacefully.



“Inquire, Learn, Reflect,” Memorial Plaza Inscription. *Kent State University Libraries. Special Collections & Archives.*

The process of memorial making at Kent State University reopened past wounds for some and comforted others.

Advisor to the memorial design competition Paul Spreiregen, in a letter to President Schwartz, stated that the process of memorializing May 4, 1970, as difficult and contentious as it often was, had the benefit of engaging the Kent State community in the intense work of perspective taking. In Spreiregen’s words:

“Over the years, at the suggestion of an especially esteemed teacher, I’ve tried to develop a degree of tolerance for ambiguity. That helps put my end of the May 4th story in perspective. It started by trying to put an event in honored memory, maybe with the idea that in so doing Kent State could get on with other things. The surprise may be that among those other things, Kent State had acquired a characteristic of intense examination of viewpoints. If so, and if permanent, it is no small gain. If I remember, that’s very much though not exclusively what a university is for.” *Kent State University Libraries. Special Collections & Archives.*



May 4 Memorial, dedicated on May 4, 1990. Photo by Drew Donovan.



# Sites of Memory, Sites of Mourning: Memorializing May 4, 1970 at Kent State University

Since the tragic events of May 4, 1970 that resulted in the killing of four students and the wounding of nine others, and goaded on by the persistent efforts of numbers of people over the decades, including Alan Canfora, Kent State University has dedicated multiple sites of mourning and memory on campus.



Each year since 1971, students, faculty, and others gather at 11 p.m. on May 3 to take part in a candlelight procession around the campus perimeter. The vigil was established by Emeritus Professor Jerry M. Lewis with the help of students. *Kent State University Libraries. Special Collections & Archives.*

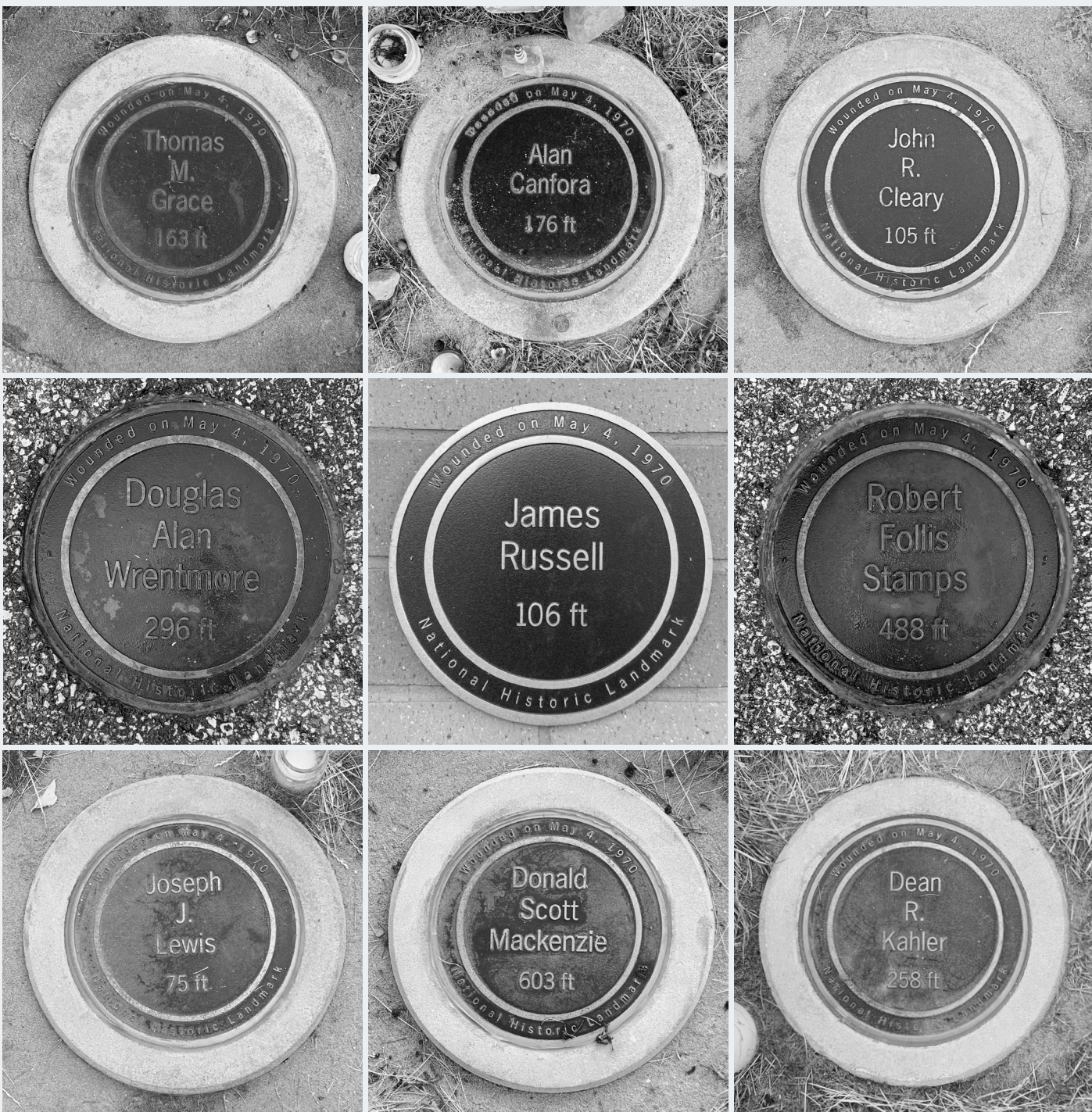
On May 4, 1971, B’nai B’rith Hillel, a Jewish service organization on campus, dedicated a marker with the names of the slain students.

In 1971, the Kent Four Sculpture, designed by former faculty-artist Alastair-Granville Jackson, was completed.

Dedicated in 1974, the May 4 Resource Room, on the first floor of the Library, contains books and other resources regarding the tragedy.



In response to protests by the May 4 Task Force, the University installed permanent markers indicating where the four students were shot, two of whom died on the spot. Dedicated on May 4, 1999, the markers prevent cars from parking in these locations. Photo by Drew Donovan.



Markers were placed at the site where each of the nine students were wounded. The markers were unveiled at the 51st May 4 commemoration in 2021. Photos by: Drew Donovan



Opened in 2012 and dedicated in 2013, the 1,900 square foot center, located in Taylor Hall, includes three galleries that cover the social movements of the 1960s, the Vietnam War, and the shootings and aftermath of the tragedy. Photo by Drew Donovan.

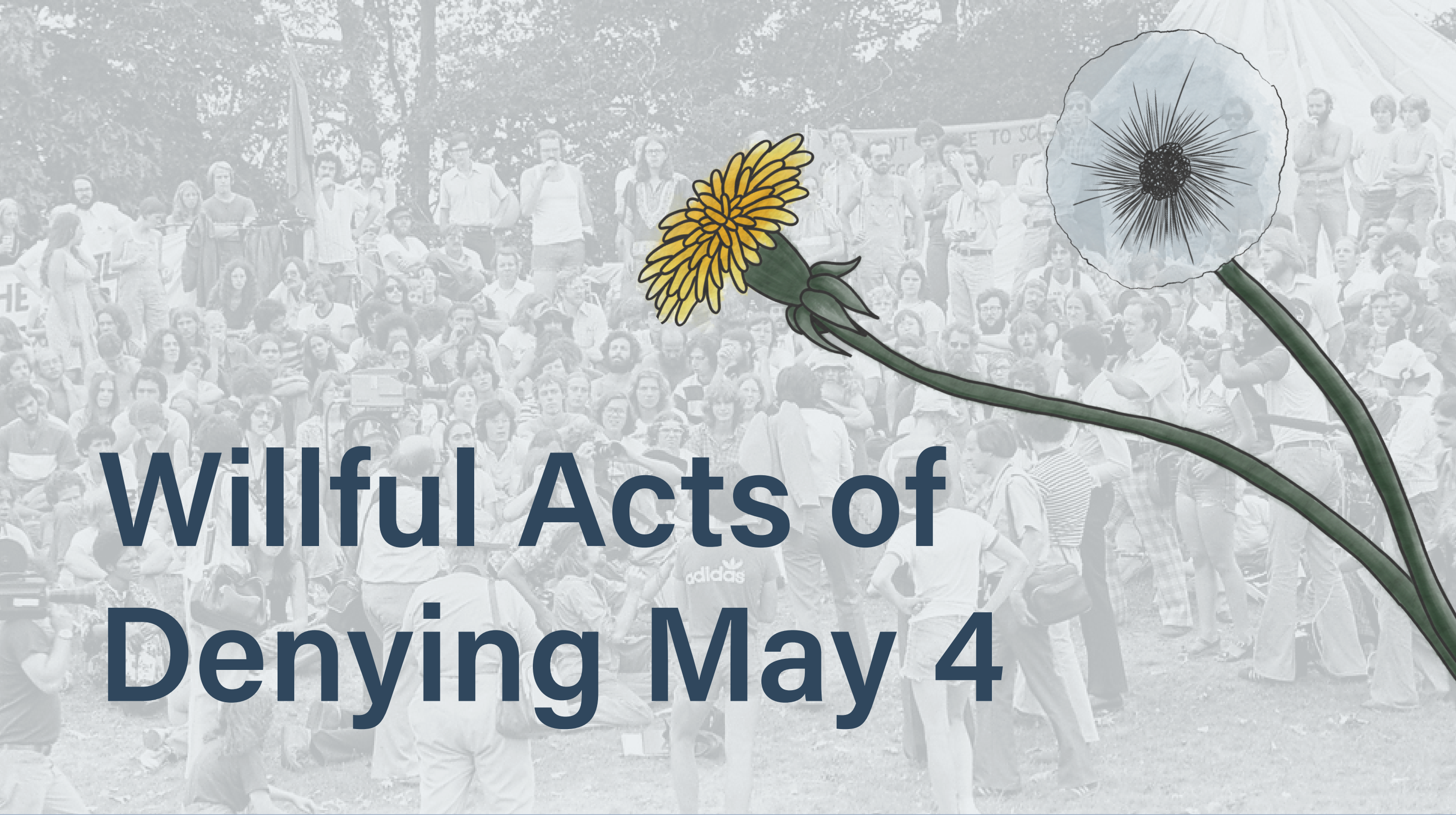
Installed in 2010 in honor of the 40th commemoration, the Guided Walking Tour includes seven interpretive trail markers featuring pictures, maps, and written descriptions of key events.

In 2010, the May 4 site was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In 2016, the site of the May 4 shootings was designated a National Historic Landmark.

In 2019, on the urging of 12 of the 13 families of the wounded and slain students, KSU Board of Trustees pledged to assume responsibility, beginning in 2020, for the annual May 4 commemorations.





# Willful Acts of Denying May 4

## *Commemorations Suspended*

KSU administration ceased sponsoring annual commemoration programs held on May 4, stating that they were no longer needed. The May 4 Task Force, founded in 1975 by Alan Canfora, Dean Kahler, and Robert Stamps, three of the students wounded on May 4, and four other students, assumed responsibility for organizing commemorations of the May 4 tragedy.

1975

## *The Gym Annex*

KSU administration announced in 1974 its intention to build a gym annex on the site of the shootings, making it difficult to retrace the events of May 4. This sparked a protest that ran from May 12, 1977 to July 12, 1977. Known as "Tent City," students, the public, and parents of students who were slain and wounded on May 4 pitched tents and occupied the site where the University planned to build.



## *Tent City Protests*

Police arrested 193 activists, including wounded student Alan Canfora and the parents of slain student Sandra Scheuer.